

## Victim offender mediation

Benefit-cost estimates updated December 2014. Literature review updated April 2012.

Current estimates replace old estimates. Numbers will change over time as a result of model inputs and monetization methods.

The WSIPP benefit-cost analysis examines, on an apples-to-apples basis, the monetary value of programs or policies to determine whether the benefits from the program exceed its costs. WSIPP's research approach to identifying evidence-based programs and policies has three main steps. First, we determine "what works" (and what does not work) to improve outcomes using a statistical technique called meta-analysis. Second, we calculate whether the benefits of a program exceed its costs. Third, we estimate the risk of investing in a program by testing the sensitivity of our results. For more detail on our methods, see our [technical documentation](#).

Program Description: In this broad grouping of programs, the underlying characteristic is that the victim and the offender sit down together with a trained mediator in order to determine appropriate restitution for the harm done. The types of offenders, criminal justice setting, and degree of support to the victim and/or offender vary.

### Benefit-Cost Summary

Program benefits		Summary statistics	
Participants	\$1,038	Benefit to cost ratio	\$7.37
Taxpayers	\$1,197	Benefits minus costs	\$3,790
Other (1)	\$2,074	Probability of a positive net present value	88 %
Other (2)	\$78		
Total	\$4,386		
Costs	(\$596)		
Benefits minus cost	\$3,790		

The estimates shown are present value, life cycle benefits and costs. All dollars are expressed in the base year chosen for this analysis (2013). The economic discount rates and other relevant parameters are described in our [technical documentation](#).

### Detailed Monetary Benefit Estimates

Source of benefits	Benefits to				Total benefits
	Participants	Taxpayers	Other (1)	Other (2)	
From primary participant					
Crime	\$0	\$611	\$1,653	\$307	\$2,572
Labor market earnings (hs grad)	\$1,055	\$450	\$521	\$0	\$2,026
Health care (educational attainment)	(\$17)	\$136	(\$100)	\$68	\$86
Adjustment for deadweight cost of program	\$0	\$0	\$0	(\$298)	(\$298)
Totals	\$1,038	\$1,197	\$2,074	\$78	\$4,386

We created the two "other" categories to report results that do not fit neatly in the "participant" or "taxpayer" perspectives. In the "Other (1)" category we include the benefits of reductions in crime victimization and the economic spillover benefits of improvement in human capital outcomes. In the "Other (2)" category we include estimates of the net changes in the value of a statistical life and net changes in the deadweight costs of taxation.

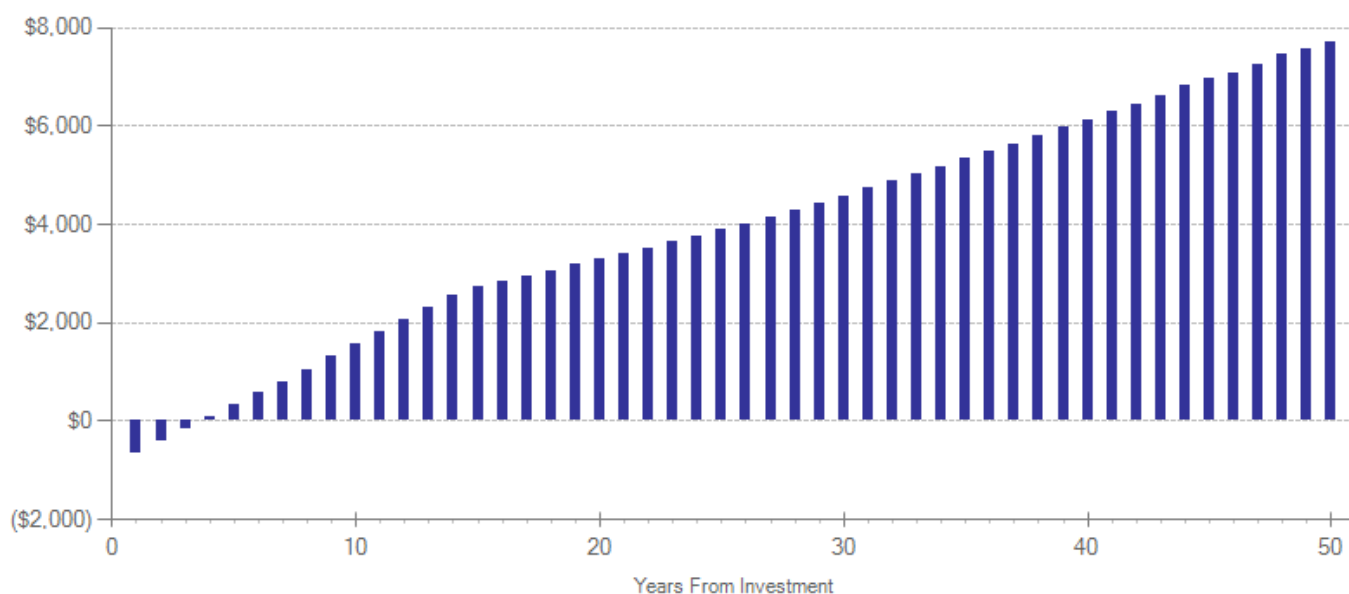
## Detailed Cost Estimates

	Annual cost	Program duration	Year dollars	Summary statistics	
Program costs	\$565	1	2010	Present value of net program costs (in 2013 dollars)	(\$596)
Comparison costs	\$0	1	2010	Uncertainty (+ or - %)	10 %

The Washington State Institute for Public Policy estimated the costs of victim offender mediation based on the literature reviewed. We also received a cost estimate from the victim offender mediation program in Clark County Washington. Our final cost estimate is the average of these two costs. The cost includes staff time, benefits, and volunteer time.

The figures shown are estimates of the costs to implement programs in Washington. The comparison group costs reflect either no treatment or treatment as usual, depending on how effect sizes were calculated in the meta analysis. The uncertainty range is used in Monte Carlo risk analysis, described in our [technical documentation](#).

### Cumulative Net Cash Flows Over Time (Non-Discounted Dollars)



## Meta-Analysis of Program Effects

Outcomes measured	Primary or secondary participant	No. of effect sizes	Treatment N	Unadjusted effect size (random effects model)		Adjusted effect sizes and standard errors used in the benefit-cost analysis					
						First time ES is estimated			Second time ES is estimated		
				ES	p-value	ES	SE	Age	ES	SE	Age
Crime	Primary	6	1639	-0.080	0.153	-0.064	0.058	16	-0.064	0.058	26

## Citations Used in the Meta-Analysis

- McCold, P., & Wachtel, B. (1998). *Restorative policing experiment: The Bethlehem Police Family Group Conferencing Project*. Pipersville, PA: Community Service Foundation.
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- Shapland, J., Atkinson, A., Atkinson, H., Dignan, J., Edwards, L., Hibbert, J., . . . Sorsby, A. (2008). *Does restorative justice affect reconviction?: The fourth report from the evaluation of three schemes* (Ministry of Justice Research Series 10/08). Sheffield, United Kingdom: University of Sheffield, Centre for Criminological Research.
- Sherman, L. W., Strang, H., & Woods, D. J. (2000). *Recidivism patterns in the Canberra Reintegrative Shaming Experiments (RISE)*. Canberra, ACT: Australian National University, Research School of Social Sciences, Centre for Restorative Justice.

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